



AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL

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Follow us by clicking on
the below pics.



American Citizens Services Hours:

9:00am to 12:30pm

(by [appointment](#))

9:00am-4:30pm

(telephone hours)

Monday through Friday,
excluding holidays

MESSAGE FROM CONSUL GENERAL PHILLIP MIN

Happy Fourth of July!

America's 239th Birthday is the perfect occasion to highlight the close relationship between the world's two largest democracies.

During his historic visit to India earlier this year, President Obama said, "As two great democracies, two innovative economies, two societies dedicated to the empowerment of our people – including millions of Indian-Americans – we are natural partners." During my first year here, I have visited the three states in Chennai's Consular District—Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu—and I have seen firsthand how our partnership continues to develop and grow. Whether I am in Kochi, Bengaluru, or Chennai, I consistently observe opportunities for our countries to prosper

together. I am proud to facilitate this growth through the many programs and efforts the United States supports.

In Chennai's Consular District alone, over 38,000 Americans live, work, and go to school, steadily building stronger relationships between the United States and India. This foundation supports further economic and political ties and deepens the already strong partnership between the two countries. Each day the U.S. Consulate General in Chennai sends over 1,000 business people, tourists, and students to the United States. Each interaction between Indians and Americans is a diplomatic



moment and one that I believe fosters our close relationship.

As I reflect on our 239th birthday and join in celebrating America's great democratic experiment, I look forward to being a part of the historic partnership between the United States and India.

Wishing you and your family a safe and prosperous summer.



INDEPENDENCE DAY



The United States celebrates the Fourth of July to honor the birthday of the United States and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress. After 1776, the celebration continued to spread, spurred by the War of 1812 and the

declaration of July 4 as a federal holiday in 1870. Today, falling in mid-summer, the Fourth of July is celebrated across America as a common occasion for family get-togethers, outdoor barbecues, parades, and fireworks.

The American flag is often displayed on this day in front of homes and businesses as a symbol of patriotism, and the national anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner" is frequently heard in celebration at public gatherings.



The Declaration of Independence

Written by Thomas Jefferson (the 3rd U.S. President), the Declaration of Independence was actually a letter to King George explaining why the Continental Congress voted to declare independence from Great Britain. It was meant to justify a revolt against the British, with a list of charges against the British king. Mainly the colonists were angry about being taxed by the British government without any vote or voice in the decisions that affected them. When the declaration was signed, it marked the beginning of the American war for independence against the British. The first signature on the Declaration of Independence was John Hancock's. Rumor has it that he wrote his name very large so that King George would be able to read it without his glasses!

See the original document and learn more about the Declaration of Independence at <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration.html>

TEST YOUR PATRIOTIC KNOWLEDGE!

Which patriotic sounding place name is the most commonly used in the United States?

- A. Freedom
- B. Liberty
- C. Union
- D. Patriot

Name the four U.S. Presidents carved into Mount Rushmore.

Who was the first U.S. President to live in the White House?

- A. James Monroe
- B. Martin Van Buren
- C. James K. Polk
- D. John Adams

Answers on page 4.

WE NEED YOUR HELP FINDING WARDENS!



The warden program is a system for communicating with American citizens living or traveling in our consular district and providing important, timely safety or security information to them. If

you live in Chennai's consular district (Karnataka, Kerala or Tamil Nadu) and want to help, email us at

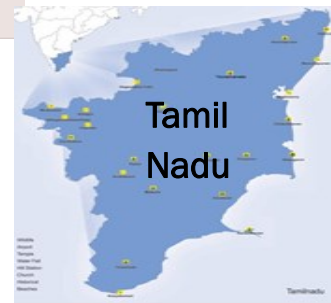
ChennaiCS@state.gov.

We currently need wardens in the following districts:

Chandra Layout
Davanagere
Gulbarga
Kolar
Manipal
Museum Road
Nandhini Layout



Thrissur
Kozhikode



Ambattur
Cuddalore
Kanchipuram
Kanyakumari
Kodaikanal
Kodambakkam
Nagapattinam
Padi
Park Town
Perambur
Porur
Pudukottai
Red Hills
Thiruvavur
Tirunelveli
Tirupur
Tiruvannamalai
Trichy
Vellore
Villupuram
Washermanpet

Improving Customer Service in Chennai

Improvements to our courier services will allow for timely tracking and faster delivery of your CRBAs and passport books and cards. So be prepared by following these instructions:

A FedEx agent will now be located in the Consulate lobby selling courier envelopes for INR 400. The fee may be paid by cash or by a demand draft in favor

of "FedEx Express TSCS (India) Pvt. Ltd." payable at New Delhi and drawn on any nationalized or foreign bank operating in India. Provide your email to FedEx to receive tracking updates. Once your CRBA or U.S. passport application is processed, the ACS Unit will return the sealed courier envelope to FedEx. You will then be able to check [Fed-](#)

[Ex's website](#) for your status delivery. Because passport book/card/CRBAs are sensitive documents, FedEx will deliver your passport book/card **ONLY** after verifying the old canceled passport, and CRBAs and citizenship documents, **ONLY** after verifying the parents' photo ID's to ensure smooth delivery.

How's that for Service?

Victim's Assistance & Emergency Services

If you or your U.S. citizen relative or friend has been a victim of crime while in India, please contact the U.S. Consulate in Chennai (or closest Embassy or consulate if not in Chennai's consular district) at 044-2857-4000.



You should file and request a copy of a local police report, called a First

Information Report (FIR), as soon as possible. You should request the FIR from the police station closest to the scene of the crime.

Emergency Services:

We can assist when a U.S. citizen in India is arrested, missing, is a victim of violent crime, becomes ill or dies, or when there is otherwise a need for immediate help. We provide the following services:

- 24-hour duty officer for emergencies involving American citizens in the Chennai consular district at **(+91-44) 2857-4000**
- Updates about crisis situations
- Information on local resources
- Contacting family members in the United States

DID YOU KNOW?

The preamble to the US Constitution begins with the words "We the People . . ." and this phrase underlines the importance Americans place on their constitutional democracy. The US Constitution enshrines democratic principles like separation of powers, checks and balances, and the rule of law. Interestingly, the US Constitution does not contain the word "democracy." However, the US Constitution guarantees a republican form of government which means that representatives are elected by the people. While there are amendments to the U.S. Constitution that prohibit discrimination based on race (15th), sex (19th) and age (26th), no explicit right to vote exists.



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VISIT THE NEW AMERICAN LIBRARY!

The American Library at the US Consulate Chennai recently completed its renovation and it can now meet your information needs better than ever. Offering over 15,000 books, more than 30 online and electronic resources, and an expanded children's section, the Library is the destination in southern India for

learning more about the United States. Visit the Library [website](#) for Library hours and membership information and to enjoy the many resources available!

The Library also offers the Saturday Matinee, showing American movies for your enjoyment. Check the Library [website](#) for show

times and procedures for entry to the Consulate.



Are You a SMART Traveller?

Recent experience from Nepal suggests you should be, and the State Department's Smart Traveller Enrolment Program (STEP) website (<https://step.state.gov/step/>) provides a convenient way to ensure that you receive accurate, timely information about safety conditions in your country and that the Embassy can contact you in an emergency.

In the aftermath of the first earthquake to strike Nepal on April 25, the U.S. Government made every effort to find all Americans. Providing assistance to Americans who might be injured or stranded becomes problematic against the backdrop of a natural disaster that has taken thousands of lives, but this job is more difficult if the Department of State does not know who or where

U.S. citizens might be or how to contact them.

Enrolling in the Smart Traveller Enrolment Program takes just a few minutes and gives the Department of State all the information necessary to contact you in an emergency.

Completing this information should be a priority for every traveller, especially in remote areas.

Does voter registration affect my tax status?

Voting for candidates for federal offices does not affect your federal or state tax liability. Voting for candidates for state or local offices could affect your state income tax liability depending on the laws of your state. If you are concerned about how your response may affect your state tax status, consult legal counsel, a U.S. tax advisor, or your state tax authorities. For more information, go to:

www.fvap.gov.



YOUTH SECTION

American Citizens Services
United States Consulate General, Chennai, India

WORD SEARCH



Q	C	Z	M	L	T	D	V	J	W
F	Y	R	O	B	E	R	T	F	R
D	R	U	B	L	I	W	M	U	I
H	S	A	M	U	E	L	O	L	G
F	A	R	N	S	W	O	R	T	H
C	P	D	X	K	Q	B	S	O	T
Y	O	R	V	I	L	L	E	N	Y
R	Z	Y	D	P	H	I	L	O	Z
U	X	N	I	M	A	J	N	E	B
S	M	C	C	O	R	M	I	C	K

Find the first and last name of each American Inventor in the puzzle. Words may be written up or down, across, diagonally, forward and backwards.

Benjamin Franklin—lightening rod, metal lined stove, bifocal glasses

Philo Farnsworth—"father" of television

Samuel Morse—telegraph and Morse code

Orville and Wilber Wright—powered airplane

Cyrus McCormick—reaper that cuts grain

Answers from Page 2: 1—c; 2—Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Jefferson; 3—d.

Visit [Kids.gov](https://kids.gov) to play games, watch videos, and learn about your country!

